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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides triamine derivative melanocortin receptor ligands of the formula:

$$R_{8}$$
 R_{7}
 R_{6}
 R_{1}
 R_{2}
 R_{3}
 R_{4}
 R_{5}

wherein R_1 to R_8 and n have the meanings provided herein. The invention further provides methods of using the ligands to alter or regulate the activity of a melanocortin receptor.